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CONTROLS
UNCLAS HAMBURG 0159

DEPT FOR CA/VO/L/C-FRED SMITH;USBERLIN FOR BDC

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: CVIS, PGOV, PEPR, GE (STEINBACH, FRIEDRICH CHRISTIAN)
SUBJ: POSSIBLE 212(A) (33) INELIGIBILITY

REF: (A) 88 HAMBURG 2826, (B) 88 USBERLIN 3590

1. CONOFF INTERVIEWED STEINBACH ON JANUARY 11, 1989. THE INTERVIEW SERVED TO ADD DETAIL TO THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL (B), THE BDC SUMMARY, AND TO CONFIRM THAT THE PERSON INTERVIEWED AND THE SUBJECT OF THE BDC SUMMARY WERE IDENTICAL. STEINBACH WISHES TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND HAS BEEN TO THE UNITED STATES AT LEAST TWENTY TIMES PREVIOUSLY. HE HAS HAD B-1/B-2 MULTIPLE AND INDEFINITE VISAS ISSUED TO HIM IN 1969 AND 1979.

2. FROM 1934 - 1938 STEINBACH CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE HITLER JUGEND. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE HE WAS NEVER A MEMBER OF THE ALLGEMEINE SS FROM FEBRUARY 01, 1938 AS INDICATED IN REFTEL (B). HE SAID THAT IN FEBRUARY 1938 HE WAS ONLY 17 YEARS OLD AND ONE HAD TO BE AT LEAST 18 TO JOIN THE ALLGEMEINE SS. HE STATED THAT THIS COULD HAVE BEEN A "PAPER MEMBERSHIP" OR SOMETHING DONE AFTER THE FACT, BUT HE STATED THAT HE WAS

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NEVER A MEMBER ON HIS OWN VOLITION AT THE TIME.

3. ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1939 HE VOLUNTARILY JOINED THE WAFFEN SS. HE WAS SENT INITIALLY TO BERLIN-LICHTERFELDER FOR BASIC TRAINING. HE BELIEVES THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE 4TH COMPANY OF THE ARTILLERY ERSATZ UNIT OF THE SS ARTILLERY DIVISION (HE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO DIVISION NAME AT THE TIME).

4. IN NOVEMBER 1939 HE WAS SENT TO BORKEN IN NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE 5TH ARTILLERY COMPANY OF THE SS-DIVISION "DAS REICH" AND HIS UNIT WAS BEING HELD IN PREPARATION FOR THE "WESTFELDZUG."

5. ON MAY 10, 1940 HE TOOK PART IN THE PUSH INTO THE WEST. HIS UNIT WENT THROUGH HOLLAND AND BELGIUM AND THEN INTO FRANCE WHERE IT EVENTUALLY STOPPED NEAR BIRITZ. ON APPROXIMATELY JUNE 30, 1940 HE WAS SENT TO AMERTSFOOD, HOLLAND AS A MEMBER OF AN ERSATZTRUPPE OF DAS REICH THOUGH HIS PAPERS MAY INDICATE THAT HIS UNIT OF ATTACHMENT WAS THE SS DIVISION "LEIBSTANDARTE **ADOLF HITLER**." HE REMAINED IN HOLLAND UNTIL JANUARY 1941.

6. IN JANUARY 1941 HIS UNIT, THE 5TH ARTILLERY WAS SENT BACK TO FRANCE TO AN AREA ON THE FRENCH/SPANISH BORDER NEAR VEZOUL (SPELLING?). HE SAID THAT HIS UNIT'S FUNCTION WAS PURELY IN A PROTECTIVE/BORDER GUARD CAPACITY.

7. IN MARCH 1941 THE DIVISION WAS ORDERED TO THE BALKANS. HE MARCHED AND WAS TRANSPORTED THROUGH BAVARIA, AUSTRIA, HUNGARY EVENTUALLY REACHING RUMANIA. HE INDICATED THAT HIS UNIT STOPPED NEAR TIMISCHBURG WHERE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE ARTILLERY INSTRUCTION TO THE RUMANIAN ARMY BUT DID NOT. IN FACT HE SAID THAT THE UNIT DID VIRTUALLY NOTHING THOUGH IT WAS ON WAR FOOTING. IN APRIL HE PARTICIPATED IN THE PUSH INTO YUGOSLAVIA GOING AS FAR AS THE OUTSKIRTS OF BELGRADE. HE SAID THAT HE SPENT ONLY EIGHT DAYS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

8. IN APRIL OR EARLY MAY HE WAS SENT FOR FOUR WEEKS OF R & R TO AMSTETTIN, AUSTRIA AND THEREAFTER TO THE GERMAN/POLISH BORDER NEAR PROST ON THE BUG RIVER. HERE HIS UNIT PREPARED FOR THE ATTACK ON RUSSIA.

9. DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 21, 1941 THROUGH MARCH 1942 HE WAS IN RUSSIA AT ALL OF THE MAJOR BATTLES IN WHICH "DAS REICH" PARTICIPATED INCLUDING MINSK, SMOLENSK AND, EVENTUALLY, THE AREA AROUND RSHEV. IN EITHER LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL HE WAS SENT TO FALLINGSBORSTEL FOR R & R AND REASSIGNMENT TO OFFICER'S SCHOOL AT BAD TOELZ. HE WAS AT BAD TOELZ FROM JUNE - SEPTEMBER 1941, AFTER WHICH HE ATTENDED A WEAPONS TRAINING COURSE AT THE SS ARTILLERY SCHOOL IN MUENSINGEN NEAR STUTTGART. HE WAS THERE UNTIL NOVEMBER AND THEN ORDERED TO A WEHRMACHT BASE IN JUEDENBERG (NEAR BERLIN) FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING. HE THEN SPENT CHRISTMAS IN MUNICH.

10. IN JANUARY 1943 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 4TH REGIMENT OF THE SS-DIVISION "HOHENSTAUFEN" AND SENT TO AN AREA IN FRANCE BETWEEN ARMIENS AND LILLE. HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE

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BUILDING, ARMING, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW BATTALION WHICH BECAME THE "HOHENSTAUFEN." HE REMAINED IN FRANCE FOR ONE YEAR.

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11. IN JANUARY 1944 HE WAS SENT TO A COURSE FOR PANZER BATTERY LEADERS NEAR GROSS BORN. IN MARCH, APPARENTLY AFTER COMPLETING THIS TRAINING, HE WENT TO JOIN HIS UNIT WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS IN FRANCE. IN MID-JOURNEY HIS ORDERS WERE CHANGED AND HE WAS SENT TO TARNOPOL ON THE EASTERN FRONT TO JOIN HIS UNIT WHICH HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE. HE WAS INVOLVED IN COMBAT FROM THE MOMENT OF ARRIVAL. HOWEVER, IN JUNE 1944 HIS DIVISION WAS TRANSFERRED TO FRANCE AND HE FOUGHT WITH IT AT ARNHEM, SIEGEN, AND THE ARDENNES.

12. IN JANUARY 1945 THE DIVISION WAS SENT TO STUHLWEISSENBURG IN HUNGARY. FROM THEN UNTIL MAY 1945 HE FOUGHT CONSTANT RETREATING ACTIONS AGAINST THE ONCOMING SOVIET AND THEIR ALLIED FORCES. AT THE TIME OF CAPITULATION HE WAS NEAR VIENNA. HE SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT HIS UNIT WAS IN THE RUSSIAN ZONE AND HE AND SOME COMRADES SWAM THE EMS RIVER IN ORDER TO BE IN THE U.S. ZONE AT THE HOUR OF CAPITULATION. HE INDICATED THAT HE ARRIVED IN THE AMERICAN ZONE AND WAS KEPT FOR A FEW WEEKS UNDER LOOSE CONFINEMENT. HE AND OTHERS WERE THEN SENT BACK TO THE RUSSIANS, BUT HE FLED, RETURNED TO THE AMERICAN ZONE AND MADE HIS WAY TO HANNOVER WHERE HE REMAINED.

13. HE SAID THAT HE WAS NEVER DENAZIFIED AND BENEFITED FROM THE YOUTH AMNESTY GRANTED AFTER THE WAR BECAUSE OF HIS AGE, 17, AT THE TIME OF ENLISTMENT IN THE WAFFEN-SS.

14. STEINBACH PRESENTED SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES INCLUDING HIS SOLDBUCH, NUMEROUS DOCUMENTS FROM THE WAR, AND COPIES OF BOOKS DEALING WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DIVISIONS "DAS REICH" AND "HOHENSTAUFEN." OF NOTABLE INTEREST WAS A BOOK ENTITLED 9.SS PANZER-DIVISION HOHENSTAUFEN, 1944: NORMANDIE, TARNOPOL-ARNHEM BY HERBERT FUERBRINGER THAT CLEARLY SHOWS THAT STEINBACH WAS THE CHIEF OF THE 4TH BATTERY, II ABTEILUNG OF THE 9TH SS-HOHENSTAUFEN FROM THE INITIAL TRAINING TIME (AUSBILDUNGZEIT) TO HUNGARY. BASED UPON THIS INFORMATION AND THE CLEAR SENSE THAT STEINBACH ANSWERED EVERY QUESTION DIRECTLY WITHOUT RESERVATION AND OFTEN IN GREAT DETAIL, CONOFF FEELS THAT HE HAS TOLD THE TRUTH AND THAT THERE IS NO INELIGIBILITY UNDER 212(A) (33). ACCORDINGLY CONOFF RECOMMENDS THAT UNLESS DEPTOFF HAS SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT WOULD RENDER HIM INELIGIBLE UNDER 212(A) (33), HIS NAME BE REMOVED FROM AVLOS AND POST BE PERMITTED TO ISSUE A VISA TO HIM.
WHITLOCK

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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